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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 6608

BILL NUMBER: HB 1205

NOTE PREPARED: Dec 12, 2004

BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Destruction of Confiscated Firearms.

FIRST AUTHOR: Rep. Smith V

FIRST SPONSOR:

BILL STATUS: As Introduced

FUNDS AFFECTED: X GENERAL
DEDICATED
FEDERAL

IMPACT: State & Local

Summary of Legislation: This bill requires the destruction of firearms confiscated by law enforcement agencies.

Effective Date: July 1, 2005.

Explanation of State Expenditures: The State Police could experience an indeterminable decrease in the donation of local firearms for its use in forensic research, training, and comparison of firearms evidence.

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures: Local law enforcement agencies would experience an increase in expenses related to the destruction of firearms. The specific impact is indeterminable and would vary among law enforcement agencies. Typically, firearms are destroyed by either welding together essential moving parts, by cutting the firearms in half with a torch, or by dropping molten lead into the barrels.

Background Information: Currently, law enforcement agencies are allowed to dispose of confiscated firearms at their own discretion. Law enforcement agencies can dispose of firearms through (1) sale to the general public via auction; (2) sale to licensed firearms dealers via auction; (3) sale to other law enforcement agencies; (4) donation to the State Police Laboratory or to other law enforcement laboratories; and (5) destruction. In addition, law enforcement agencies are allowed to retain confiscated firearms for use within their respective organizations. Although many law enforcement agencies are required to destroy confiscated firearms via local court order, most confiscated firearms are either sold to the public or to licensed firearms dealers.

Explanation of Local Revenues: Under current law, revenue from confiscated firearms sales is distributed locally to firearms training and continuing education funds in order to defray expenses for various training programs for law enforcement officials. Local law enforcement agencies would experience an indeterminable decrease in revenues which would vary among law enforcement agencies.

State Agencies Affected: State Police.

Local Agencies Affected: Law Enforcement Agencies.

Information Sources: Indiana Sheriffs' Association, (317) 356-3633.

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